## **General Faculty Senate Meeting**

**Time: 11:00 am – 12:15 pm**

## **Minutes**

**01/23/2025**

In attendance:

Chair Sarah Senk, Vice Chair Taiyo Inoue, Secretary Ariel Setniker, Julie Chisholm, Christine Isakson, Margaret Ward, Keir Moorhead, Amy Skoll, Aparna Sinha, David Satterwhite, Ian Wallace, Jennifer Metz, Kitty Luce, Matt Fairbanks, Nipoli Kamdar, Sam Pearson, Tony McDevitt, Wil Tsai, and guests.

Absent: Tom Oppenheim, Kevin Calnan, Executive Dean Dinesh Pinisetty.

**Call to Order**

* *Chair Senk called the meeting to order after quorum was achieved.*
* *Chair Senk motions to amend agenda to include chair’s update on merger, approved unanimously.*

**Minutes Approval**

* *Minutes from 11/21/24, 11/26/24 approved unanimously*

**Chair’s Report**

* *Chair Senk presenting.*
* Cal Poly Integration Updates
  + Addresses feedback/concerns about “Cal Poly Solano” naming convention; President confirmed “Cal Poly Solano Campus” refers to the site/land, but branding will focus on *Cal Poly* and *Cal Poly Maritime Academy*. Integration manager reiterated discourse of “Cal Poly’s Maritime campus;” *maritime* will always be central to campus identity. Reports of “surf and turf” metaphor reiterate *complementary* relationship of the two campuses.
  + Reiterates messaging from January 13 all-faculty meet-and-greet with Cal Poly President and additional Cal Poly Leaders: March 2025 is likely date for decision about college/school structures, but ideally by end of February.
  + July 2025: administrative integration
  + October 2025: alleged deadline for one catalog (since Cal Poly finalizes catalog before prospective Fall 2026 matriculants submit their college applications). Senk notes this needs corroborating, but date was mentioned at the Jan 13 event.
  + July 2026: full integration – students matriculating in August 2026 are officially Cal Poly students
  + People to Know
    - President Jeff Armstrong
    - Cal Poly Campus Lead for Integration Jessica Darin
    - Liaison for faculty curriculum and shared governance, supporting curricular and faculty governance integration (Curriculum and Shared Governance) Rachel Fernflores. Will visit campus monthly this semester. Encourages faculty to email any time with questions/concerns.
    - Cal Poly Academic Senate Chair Jerusha Greenwood. Meeting regularly with Cal Maritime Senate Chair Senk since August.
  + FIT Groups – Dean Benton will provide an update on these upon return. Groups focused on elements of the administrative merger, dealing with “big picture” administrative issues like software usage, financial aid, naming conventions, how to merge Peoplesoft (Cal Poly uses a different degree planning interface called High Point), Canvas migrations, how to merge Foundations and Associated Student government groups, which are all 501c3 nonprofits and require IRS notification, legal issues regarding land use, “CIP” codes. When you integrate two universities, WASC considers that a “substantive change” and review could take another few months. Academic Affairs staff on FIT groups emphasize that no discussions of curriculum are occurring; curriculum is the purview of the faculty.
    - Subgroups?
      * At the last meeting we asked faculty to identify areas of interest for integration work as we anticipated announcement of FIT sub-groups. Learned FIT groups will *not* be addressing curriculum, so it is up to us to identify our own faculty workgroups (as we started in the fall) for curriculum and other issues faculty deem essential. We’ll tentatively call them “Faculty Transitional Workgroups”. Our goal is to gather all Cal Maritime and Cal Poly policy information in one place for easy reference and identify points of commonality and points of difference. We’re in “limbo” until announcement about colleges comes but we *can* set ourselves up to hit the ground running with fact-finding missions about campus policies so we can all be informed as we work toward an integration of the senates.
      * Additional task to consider: we’re about to embark on a curriculum alignment process with our new faculty colleagues that may take years; we have much in common already but some things we do differently (e.g. Licensing/STCW, Gateway Math, Maritime GE, ELDP, specialized Library programming); good practice to articulate the value of our programs to people unfamiliar with them; where we do things differently, we need to articulate *why.* (Senators Setniker and Skoll will offer demonstrations of the types of “elevator pitches” we can all do as we work together to communicate a unified message to our future colleagues.)
      * List of topics faculty identified in Padlet exercise and recent survey includes Program Level Curriculum, Development of New Majors, Program Growth, Course-Level Curriculum Integration, STCW and Licensing, Academic Support Services, Shared Governance/Faculty Governance, General Education, Student Leadership Training, RTP, Assessment/Accreditation, DEI Initiatives. Senate Exec will review list of people who expressed interest in each topic and notify groups next week; aiming for one group (with maximum of 2) per individual faculty member to prevent burnout.
      * If something is missing from the list and there’s another integration issue you want to bring up or work on, reach out to Chair Senk.
  + Cal Maritime Senate Integration: [shares image of “Operation Honeybadger” with thanks to bylaws revision team Senk chaired in 2019 featuring Chisholm, McNie, Trevisan, Brown, Holden].
    - Senate in its current representative form has only been in existence since 2020. Working now to integrate faculty governance structures will involve lots of change, which may feel strange since in many ways we were just starting to hit a stride and work out the quirks. Will be many surprises as we join a faculty with a long-established set of policies and procedures and find a place in an institution where we’re no longer always “building the ship as we’re sailing it.”
    - Perks: Cal Poly has an *analyst!*
  + Faculty Governance Structures
    - Begin by forming subgroups
    - Think about structure options going forward. At Cal Poly “Caucus” is more or less synonymous with *colleges* and there is a caucus for Library and Professional Consultative Services (aka University Advisors). If we have a college on the maritime campus, we might follow the college caucus model; but if our departments are merged into existing colleges, we’d be eligible to run as part of that college’s caucus.
    - We are not \*yet\* Cal Poly faculty and won’t be until July 1, so we may not necessarily have Cal Poly representation in the coming AY as their elections begin in February, before we even know about college structures.
    - Cal Poly Senate Chair Jerusha Greenwood shared that incorporating our model of “at large positions” may be an efficient way to create designated Maritime campus seats on the Cal Poly Senate for the coming academic year.
    - Propose what our representation should look like in the Cal Poly Senate as Cal Maritime faculty via resolution – possible first reading February, second reading March to allow for passing by summer – major priority. Exec will begin work immediately, welcomes input/ideas and volunteers for a workgroup to draft these resolutions. Rather than do a joint resolution with Cal Poly, Chairs Senk and Greenwood recommend each senate proceeds with resolutions but maintain open lines of communication and cross-campus feedback.
  + Strategies for Working Collaboratively before we become Cal Poly / Cal Poly Maritime Academy Faculty
    - Senk reports monthly conversations with GE Governance Board Chair; additional meetings happening in a grassroots fashion with departments, individual outreach. Encourages faculty and standing committee chairs to continue outreach and discussion with program counterparts and maintain open lines of communication.
    - Senk and Tsai began preparing massive Google Doc of Cal Poly “intel” (information about colleges, programs, institutes, senate committees, university committees) over break; some other faculty have already added to it; contact Chair Senk if you’d like to contribute so we can crowdsource information.
    - Cal Poly’s Senate has robust infrastructure with up-to-date websites and policies, unlike Cal Maritime, which has been understaffed in this area. (Senk only has web edit access to the General Education Senate page, not the university GE page, which has not been updated in years.) Knowing we have uneven information online and limited support, what can we do *now?* We need to *inform* our future colleagues about the things we do that they don’t do and make sure we’re providing accurate information (*for faculty by faculty*).
      * Think about this as killing two birds with one stone [Senk clarifies she does *not* kill birds], helping inform future colleagues *and* produce “copy” that might be useful in future branding and public-facing content for programs. We need to be prepared to articulate a clear rationale – for a generalist audience – for the things that we believe are essential to our mission so we can achieve mutual understanding.
* January Faculty Retreat Report-Out

**Sample “What Makes Cal Maritime” Distinctive Pitch**

* *Secretary Setniker presenting on Gateway Mathematics Program*
* Senk notes Skoll will deliver additional sample pitch in department report-outs
* **Overview:** The Gateway Mathematics Program at Cal Maritime exemplifies hands-on learning, ensuring all students develop essential academic and professional skills regardless of their starting point.
* **Challenges in Gateway Mathematics Programs**
  + High rates of students receiving D, F, or withdrawing (DFW) in foundational courses.
  + Gaps in student preparedness leading to academic struggles.
  + Inconsistencies across different course sections affecting learning outcomes.
  + Financial barriers to accessing necessary learning materials.
* **Program Transformation & Applied Learning Approach**
  + First-year mathematics courses redesigned to emphasize collaboration and active learning.
  + Real-world problem-solving integrated, connecting concepts to maritime and STEM fields.
  + Approach aligns with high-impact educational practices, fostering critical thinking, teamwork, and career relevance.
* **Innovations in Curriculum & Student Support**
  + Custom, zero-cost workbooks remove financial barriers while maintaining academic rigor.
  + Success plans and targeted interventions offer individualized student support.
  + Hands-on learning practices contribute to student growth and success in coursework and future careers.
* **Program Impact & Measurable Outcomes**
  + Coordinated curriculum ensures consistency and fairness across course sections.
  + Over 200 students served in the past fall semester.
  + DFW rate reduced to an all-time low of 20%, reflecting a long-term downward trend.
  + Institutional efficiency and collaboration drive continued program success.
* **Conclusion: Equity, Innovation, and High-Impact Learning**
  + The Gateway Mathematics Program serves as a model of equitable, high-impact learning.
  + Focus on resilience-building and essential skill development prepares students for professional success.
  + Program supports future leaders in meeting career demands and contributing meaningfully to their fields.

**Vice Chair’s Report**

* *Vice Chair Inoue presenting*
* Thanks to Jenn Metz for filling our At-large Lecturer Representative
* As we don’t know what our senate structure will be next year, propose postponing typical February elections to March for next AY
* *Senator Inoue motions to postpone senate elections to end of March, seconded by Senator Tsai. 18 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions. Motion passes.*
* Call for Senate Standing Committee Chairs to request time on next senate agenda to share updates as we go into integration

**ASCSU Report**

* *Senators Julie Chisholm and Christine Isakson presenting*
* Fiscal & Governmental Affairs Chair Isakson
  + Asked CO liaisons about how budget would be restructured in summer between Cal Poly and our campus, and when
    - When would we see fiscal relief?
    - Answer: didn’t know yet
  + Asked about enrollment targets – combined into one, or separated by campus?
    - CO liaisons: do not know yet
  + Investigating why UC gets far more per student than the CSU does by state legislature (approximately double) – our students need more resources
  + Governor recently announced budget was a bit better overall than anticipated, yet our 8% stays constant – working on getting more funding out of this
  + Encouraging all campuses to reach out to local representatives
* Julie Chisholm
  + A number of resolutions passed
    - Inconsistencies on CSU-GE and Cal-GETC
    - JEDI First-Year Experiences
    - CSU-Wide Budget Transparency
    - APEP Financial Aid Processes are Under-Resourced
    - Addressing Exclusion of the Mathematics for Elementary School Teachers Course(s)
  + Several resolutions in first reading
    - Recently recounted students and faculty – some have grown, and proposal for biggest campuses getting an additional ASCSU senator

**Department Report-Outs**

* **ISS:** *Senator Skoll presenting*
  + Have anticipated need to market our program and so have an ongoing project creating materials for a “look book”
    - Half-Sheets explaining what an ISS major is, what you can do with the major career-wise
    - Marketing Text for website and a document that can be shared with key stakeholders, with an emphasis on what makes our program unique
    - Working on materials for growth opportunities in the department (new programs and majors, license track options)
    - Tables with /competencies gained in the major and course mapping to program learning outcomes and institution wide learning outcomes
    - Promotional posters
* **ME:** *Senator Tsai presenting*
  + Privileged that we have a program in parallel at SLO, allowing us to jump into conversations (since July) – same accrediting agency, same industry boards, etc.
  + SLO Engineering Chair and Engineering Curriculum Committee Chair visited in person December 19
    - Made it abundantly clear that it would not be desirable to just move our ME program to SLO campus
  + STCW has been discussed, SLO respects our expertise, so we need to make first move
    - Dr. Mott (Engineering CC Chair) has done a comparison for us, towards alignment or not at the course levels
    - Looking at best courses of action for our degree programs
      * Seems logical that we would go under Cal Poly SLO College of Engineering
  + We are under a particularly tight timeline due to parallel programs
  + Preparing for USCG internal audit this term, ABET re-accreditation visit in fall
  + Senator Setniker asks about need to re-accredit if engineering programs merge sooner than later – Senator Tsai responds that it is up to the accreditor but also what model we go for – each \*program\* must be accredited
* Chair Senk notes C&C has connected with English Department Chair, too, recognizes that MT is the only program without a counterpart at Cal Poly.
  + Senator McDevitt inquires if they have a management program, as MT used to award a management degree
    - Cal Poly does have a business school, architecture has faculty who are practitioner faculty without PhD
    - Senator Ward seconds idea to move back to a licensed management degree

**CFA Update**

* Last year, administration announced IE salary would decrease. CFA successfully negotiated: IE Salary will be calculated using code 2457 at 5.2 units.
  + WTU Base Salary Rate X 5.2 at 100% enrollment (It’s capped at 65% irrespective of the IE student enrollment.
* CFA is working on an FAQ regarding RTP, will propose to CO and Cal Poly
* Call for volunteers to serve on RTP Task Force (especially license faculty), Immigration Task Force
* CFA is aggressively working with the legislature to reverse the planned 7.95% cut to the CSU

**Open Floor**

* Senator Metz invites all to documentary screening event, *Stripped for Parts*, with Q&A with filmmaker Thursday, January 30 – many local politicians and community members attending
* Senator Luce shares that a CFA Happy Hour is coming soon
* Senator Wallace shares that due to recent off-campus incident, CAPS is open for extra drop-ins as well as individual outreach has been established
* Chair Senk – a group of Teagle fellows has been working on revamping Common Read – moving from an entire book to a common reader OER in zine form, mutually reinforcing CLD leadership training content *and* integrating texts into first year GE courses.
  + If interested in joining group, reach out to Chair Senk

**Meeting Adjourned [~12:15 pm] (unanimous)**